

Weather Forecast

Some cloudiness, lowest about 34 tonight; tomorrow fair, warmer. Temperatures today—Highest, 45, at 2 p.m.; lowest, 31, at 6 a.m.

From the United States Weather Bureau report. Full details on Page A-2.

Closing New York Markets, Page 12.

# The Evening Star

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

'From Press to Home Within the Hour'

Most people in Washington have The Star delivered to their homes every evening and Sunday morning.

(\*) Means Associated Press.

88th YEAR. No. 35,286.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1940—FORTY-FOUR PAGES. \*\*\*

THREE CENTS.

## British and Italians Battling On Broad Front in West Egypt; Greeks Press Retreating Enemy

500 Prisoners Taken In Engagement, Says English Command

**BACKGROUND—** Action between Italians and British in Western Egyptian desert has been sporadic since the Fascists entered the war last June. Italian troops have driven about 70 miles into Egyptian territory, but halted there, confronted with serious difficulties of supplying their army if they moved farther.

By the Associated Press.

CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 9.—British forces have made contact with the Italians "on a broad front" in the Western Egyptian desert and have taken 500 prisoners in an engagement south of Sidi Barrani, the British African command declared today. This indicated the long-awaited battle of Egypt may have started, breaking a three-month stalemate.

This front has long been dormant, with the British apparently content to prevent the Italians from driving further into Egypt from Sidi Barrani, 70 miles inside the western frontier.

The action was described as between British "advance elements" and the Italians.

The Italians, under Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, drove across the Libyan-Egyptian frontier early in the Italian-British conflict and marched along the coast to Sidi Barrani with little opposition. From there they have made little important progress for the last three months.

Text of Communique.

The British communique said: "In the western desert, advanced elements of our forces are now in contact with the enemy on a broad front."

"In an engagement south of Sidi Barrani we captured 500 prisoners. The Sudan: Last night our patrols continued extensive activities in the Gallabat area, while our artillery again successfully engaged enemy targets."

"Other fronts, nothing to report." British authorities declare they are ready for any Fascist offensive in Egypt if that is what Premier Mussolini's changes in the Italian high command mean. "The communique did not indicate which side was on the offensive, British or Italian."

So far apparently, Marshal Graziani has been reluctant to risk an offensive, with the necessity of moving supplies—especially water—over poor road communications, against Britain's well-organized transport system, including a railroad to their front lines.

Lack of Power Shown.

Although overwhelmingly superior to the British in manpower and material, foreign observers say, the first months of the war in the Mediterranean have shown Italy lacking any striking power like Germany's.

Had Mussolini struck at the time of the French collapse he might have had easier going, in their view. But now, they say, his holding back has enabled Britain to increase her strength greatly.

Occupation of the 70-mile strip into Egypt has been the Italians' main achievement in North Africa so far. They are said to have moved six divisions into the area, built roads, a water supply system and supply bases.

An army of six divisions means from 70,000 to 90,000 men.

In London, the Air Ministry news service reported an R. A. F. bombardment of a large number of Italian warplanes at Benina airdrome in the western desert and said it believed many were damaged. One hangar was "completely burned out" and fires were started in three others, it said.

Extensive damage also was reported in a Saturday raid on Castel Benito, near the Libyan port of Tripoli, and other British air forces were said to have struck widely in Italian East Africa.

The three-month stalemate has resulted in a general sense of weariness among the assembled British, Australian, New Zealand, Polish and French soldiers. Greek victories in Albania have enhanced this spirit.

This is a typical comment from one of the Australians, generally considered to be the toughest of Britain's desert troops. "We can't wait for the Italians and here we are sitting around for months doing nothing in the middle of the desert."

Fear Troops Will Go Stale.

If the deadlock continues through the winter there are fears the soldiers may "go stale."

On the other hand, since the British plans in Egypt have been defensive rather than offensive, and moving far from supply bases in the desert.

(See CAIRO, Page A-13.)

## N. B. C. and C. B. S. Units Damaged in London Raid

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—London offices of both the National Broadcasting Co. and the Columbia Broadcasting System were damaged by bombs in German raids on the British capital last night.

Larry Lesueur, C. B. S. correspondent, told in his regular broadcast today of finding his London office "in ruins" when he returned to it this morning.

It was the second time since the aerial warfare against Britain started that Columbia's office had been wrecked by bombs, he said.

John McVane, N. B. C.'s London correspondent, said in his regular broadcast that bombs which fell nearby "smashed windows in our office, broke furniture and disrupted our communication line."

## Fierce Fighting Is Reported On Line North of Argirocastro

'On to Valona' Is Hellenes' War Cry; Cavalry and Planes Spur Fascist Flight

By the Associated Press.

ATHENS, Dec. 9.—Fierce fighting beyond Argirocastro was reported today between Greece's advancing army and the Italian rearguard, strongly entrenched to cover the retreat of the main Fascist body to the north and west.

With Argirocastro, last of Italy's Southern Albanian bases behind them, Greek soldiers launched into the new, swift follow-up attack with cries of "On to Valona!"

Valona, next Albanian sea gateway for Italian supplies in the Greek path, is about 40 miles northwest of Argirocastro. About midway on that line lies Tepelini, a road junction, toward which the Greeks are fighting from the east and south. Their goal, shouted as a battle slogan, is "Tirana by Christmas!" Tirana is Albania's capital.

Great Fires Started In Raid on Bordeaux, British Report

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—A great fire was started by British night air raiders among buildings between two of the dock basins in the German-held French port of Bordeaux, the Air Ministry news service said today.

This was part of farflung British air attacks last night in which, the Air Ministry said, R. A. F. bombers also raided industrial and military targets in the Duesseldorf area of Germany, the submarine base at the French Atlantic port of Lorient, the harbors of Brest, Flushing, Dunkerque and Gravelines and "several enemy airdromes."

Bordeaux "Heavily Attacked." A bulletin amplifying the communique said Bordeaux was "heavily attacked" by planes of the coastal command and the raids on Brest and Lorient were the second within 24 hours.

British bomber pilots returning from the raid on Duesseldorf, repeated target of recent R. A. F. forays, said a "concentrated attack" was made on the German city and "great destruction" observed.

The Air Ministry news service quoted one flyer as saying, "We clouted Duesseldorf good and hard."

(An Associated Press correspondent, flown from Berlin to Duesseldorf today in Reichsmarschal Hermann Wilhelm Goering's plane, said he saw no evidence, either from the air or the ground, that Germany's second most important steel center had been crippled by British bombs Saturday and Sunday nights.)

Shower of Crimson Sparks.

"At Lorient," the news service said, "sticks of bombs were distributed across docks and storehouses and one bomb burst threw up a shower of crimson sparks."

"A great blue flash was seen, too, after salvo of bombs was dropped. 'Brest was lit up soon after the raid began by the flare of a burning dockside building. The roof fell in while the attack still was in progress and pilots overhead could see the flames reflected in the water."

Other bombs, the Air Ministry said, struck around the military port, the naval barracks and dockyard. The ministry said the crew of one plane bombing Duesseldorf from several thousand feet up "actually was able to see flames streaming from the windows" of blast furnace and steel works known to manufacture railroad and shipping equipment.

Steel Works Blasted.

It pictured three large fires and many small ones as following the first bomb burst and continued. "Our aircraft then crowded in, dropping their heavy bombs accurately on the steel works and pelting the entire area with hundreds of incendiaries."

"Flames blazed up in one factory long after our aircraft had gone away. Two minutes after one aircraft had discharged its load of incendiaries, three violent explosions were observed among fire storerooms."

Pilots stated that from 30 to 40 miles away it was plain that many of the fires had taken firm hold. The report also said one British plane, after bombing the steel works, dived and dropped its load of incendiaries, three violent explosions were observed among fire storerooms.

Two Planes Missing.

The ministry said two British planes were missing after the attacks. "From Berlin it was reported that two British bombers were downed in the Western Reich, where several persons were killed."

Saturday night British bombers attacked Lorient, Antwerp, Dunkerque, Calais and Boulogne and pounded fiercely at Duesseldorf.

The biggest fire British flyers have seen during the war was reported started in a Fourth of July celebration, described as having been as destructive as the all-night attack on the same city last Wednesday.

## London Suffers Wide Damage in All-Night Raid

Capital Rocked by Bombs; 9 Hospitals Are Reported Hit

BULLETIN.

LONDON (AP).—An alarmless, raidless day for London stretched into the darkness tonight, past the usual time for night raiders to approach, and gave the capital another respite after the severe hammering which last night shattered a 44-hour lull.

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—German air raiders concentrated the full force of a night-long assault on London last night and early today, swelling the toll of casualties and ruin in the capital which was kept under alarm more than 12 hours.

Except for a pre-dawn lull when the fog rolled in, the city was rocked by explosions and lighted by fires and shell-bursts from evening until early morning.

Informal Germans in Berlin said the attack was the heaviest for London since last September. They said German bombers from airdromes throughout Germany, Holland, Belgium and France joined in the onslaught.

It was believed the number of casualties was not heavy in proportion to the intensity of the raid, but property damage was widespread through the London area.

Nine Hospitals Reported Hit.

Nine hospitals in all were hit, it was reported this morning. There were many casualties among the staff and patients of one of them which received a direct hit. One of the hospitals struck was a large general hospital, another was a hospital for women.

In one section of London where fires flared over a wide area, a resident said: "It seemed as if it were raining incendiary bombs by the hundred."

While some fires still were burning, bombs were dropped by succeeding raiders who came over in what one observer said were "endless waves." Explosions damaged a Catholic church and an ambulance station. Considerable damage was reported done to dwellings, shops and business buildings.

Number Feared Trapped.

East of London, near the Thames River Estuary, a number of persons were feared trapped in an air raid shelter by a bomb-hit nearby.

A government communique said bombs fell in many districts between the south and east coasts and London, along the route the bombers took to reach the capital.

The attack ended 44 hours of quiet—London's longest respite from bombings since the air siege began in May 1940.

The planes in London roared over in waves and singly, dropping flares, incendiary bombs and then high explosives. The raid was described as a mass attack—but not area bombing concentrated on any specific section of London.

At times so many planes were over the city that the drone of their motors rose to a roar that could be heard above the almost incessant crash of the anti-aircraft barrage.

Firemen Kept Busy.

The gunfire was so intense that waves of light pulsed across the sky almost continuously. The clouds reflected the glare of shellbursts and bomb-streaked fires below. The display of deadly fireworks sometimes counteracted the London blackout.

Firemen were kept busy all night long, working while the bombs still fell. Once the raiders flew in parallel lines across the city, dropping long rows of fire bombs.

A. E. Wall, Associated Press staff member who came to London only a few weeks ago, found his taxicab suddenly ringed by sputtering incendiary bombs.

He and the cabbie sprinted for shelter in an archway, waited while five "scream bombs" smashed down nearby, then returned to their undamaged cab and continued through streets lit like in a giant Fourth of July celebration.

One of the hospitals, which was badly damaged by explosive and incendiary bombs dropped by the night raiders, was reported to be closed.

(See LONDON, Page A-5.)

## London's Night Transformed Into Day by Raid's Red Glare

Rain of Nazi Fire in Heavy Attack Reminds of July 4th Celebration

By ROBERT J. CASEY.

Chicago Daily News Foreign Correspondent.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—Admittedly it was the worst raid in three weeks. Some day an uncensored historian may tell something about it. In the meantime—

The blitz began in the gloaming and went on all through the night—the routine night of terror to which London has become so thoroughly accustomed. There was no new technique about it—nothing that it stand out among a long list of attacks on civilians save that it marked the end of a brief period during which the populace got some sleep and the morigues were reasonably empty.

The bombers came over, squadron after squadron. The sky was bright with flares, weaving through a luminous basketry of searchlights. And the ack-ack (anti-aircraft) barked continuously for hours on end—not isolated batteries of it, but hundreds of guns all across the town and in the far reaches of the Thames Estuary.

Incendiary bursts studded the horizon at intervals, like fiery flowers in a Fourth of July celebration, and high explosives came roaring after to complete the destruction. Broken glass and shell fragments rained down into the streets, as they had not rained for many days. Neither the bombs nor the storms of old iron were confined to any particular district.

Judging from unofficial estimates this morning, the raid—so far as the death toll is concerned—was not very successful. But the Germans (according to Berlin reports on which local journals seem to rely for information) appeared satisfied. The official German news agency stated that, beginning at dusk, planes "from all the airdromes in Germany" were seen.

## Toy Shows Will Be Gay Fun And Big Help to Santa, Too

Warner Bros. Theaters Add Yule 'Trimings' for Star's Event

Getting ready for the boys and girls who will play Santa Claus Saturday, the 12 Warner Bros. theaters presenting "toy matinees," displayed today all the trimmings of Christmas.

Toys and clothing which have arrived in advance of the "toy matinees" help give the theater jolliers that Christmas look, the look that will spell Christmas for the needy youngsters of Washington.

Toys will be the only ticket of admission to the "toy matinees," to be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday. For those who cannot get to the "toy matinees" or want to leave their toys at the theater in their neighborhood in advance of the "toy matinees," all Warner Bros. theaters are serving as collection centers for gifts of clothes and toys.

Cash gifts should be taken to the Star's Christmas House at Eleventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. or mailed to Christmas House in care of The Star. Every one who brings a cash donation to Christmas House rings the great bell inside the house. The number of needy families helped.

(See CHRISTMAS, Page A-3.)

## 60% Share of U. S. Planes for Britain Proposed by Adams

Nye Opposes Plan, Sees Morgenthau Talks as First Step to Loan

By the Associated Press.

With the financial balance sheet of the British Empire due for early presentation at the Treasury Department, Capitol Hill heard a fresh series of arguments for and against greater aid to Britain.

This debate—unofficial but inspired—proceeded with one eye on the second meeting scheduled in the series of conversations between Secretary Morgenthau and Sir Frederick Phillips, undersecretary of the British Treasury.

The Treasury reported that this conference, scheduled last Friday for today, had been postponed to an indefinite date, but probably would be held this week. Apparently Sir Frederick has found he needs more time to prepare a balance sheet of British resources and expenses.

However, Mr. Morgenthau and Sir Frederick exchanged memoranda today. The English expert sent a note in the nature of a progress report to the Treasury and the Treasury made a reply. Sir Frederick is working at the British Embassy.

The financial picture the balance sheet discloses may determine the consideration to be accorded any future proposals involving cash or credit assistance.

On the congressional front, meanwhile, Senator Adams, Democrat, of Colorado, told newsmen that Britain should have at least 60 per cent of American aircraft production, instead of the prevailing 50 per cent.

Ample Protection Seen.

"We have a considerable number of defense planes now," Senator Adams asserted. "We have enough to protect us against any immediate attack."

"As long as England has planes Hitler is not going to try to attack the United States."

Senator Nye, Republican, of North Dakota, retorted that an increased allotment of aircraft to Great Britain "would jeopardize our defense."

"I was afraid," said Senator Nye, "that when the 50-50 allotment was agreed upon we ultimately would be increasing Great Britain's share, even to giving them all our new planes."

Senator Nye, a leader of the group (See BRITISH AID, Page A-4.)

## Mild Weather Is Due To Continue in Capital

Continued mild weather is in store for Washington, the Weather Bureau indicated today. A high of at least 46 degrees today followed by fair and warmer weather tomorrow was forecast.

Some cloudiness today and a low of 34 degrees tonight was predicted. Yesterday's high temperature was more than 80 degrees.



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## John L. Lewis Called Before Grand Jury Probing Election

Twenty More Political Leaders Subpoenaed By Investigators

Additional subpoenas for persons prominent in the recent presidential campaign went out today to bring about 20 political leaders before a special district grand jury the latter part of the week. These include John L. Lewis, former C. I. O. leader and head of Labor's Non-Partisan League, as well as Communist and Socialist chieftains.

The list was made public by Assistant United States Attorney William S. Tarver acting on behalf of Special Assistant to the Attorney General Maurice M. Milligan, who is supervising the investigation of possible violations of the Hatch and Corrupt Practices Acts.

Subpoenaed for Wednesday are: Samuel Pettengill, chairman of the National Committee to Uphold Constitutional Government; Henry Chapin of Philadelphia, treasurer of the Committee of Independent Voters for Roosevelt and Wallace; William H. Settle of Keystone, Ind., chairman of the National Committee of Agriculture; Robert G. Allen, Pittsburgh, treasurer of the National Committee of Democrats for Willie; Allan Valentine, president of Rochester University, executive director of the Democrats for Willie; Langbourne Williams, former treasurer, Democrats for Willie; Ord Preston, president of the Union Trust Co. here and former president of the Washington Gas Light Co., and treasurer of the Willie McNary Campaign Club of Washington, D. C.; Edgar Allan Poe, Baltimore, Md., attorney, State advisory chairman of the Democrats for Willie.

Mr. Lewis, who supported Wendell L. Willkie for the presidency, was subpoenaed for Thursday. Others subpoenaed were Robert O. Bonnell of Baltimore, Robert E. Smith, New York City, assistant treasurer of the Peoples Committee to Defend Life Insurance and Savings; O. L. Garrison, controller of Labor's Non-Partisan League; James H. Morris of New York City, connected with the Independents for Roosevelt; Vance McCormick, Harrisburg, Pa., advisory chairman, Democrats for Willie.

Slated to appear before the grand jury Friday are: Stanley Resor, New York City, treasurer, United Republican Finance Committee of Metropolitan New York; Arnold Peterson, New York City, secretary, National Executive Committee, National Socialist-Labor party; Alexander Trachtenberg, treasurer, National Election Campaign, Communist party; Miss Ernestine Haig, New York City; James H. Causey, New York City, and William N. Rogers, Concord, N. H., State advisory chairman, Democrats for Willie.

The company, however, while bargaining with the C. I. O. on working conditions and other plans, refused to bring the C. I. O. employees' representatives into the negotiations, and the independent union likewise continued to demand the right to speak for the workers of Crystal City.

As a result charges of unfair labor practices were filed against the company and it is upon this that the court will now pass.

In the Nebraska case a three-judge Federal court held that the State legislation violated by depriving the copyright owner of the right to sell or withhold from sale as he may choose. The legislation was challenged by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers—"A. S. C. A. P."—which controls the copyrights on practically 90 per cent of the music played in this country. "A. S. C. A. P." which is now engaged in a music war with the National Association of Broadcasters, contended it was entitled to extra payments for music played publicly.

Mountain Climber Killed

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 9 (AP).—A rope snapped and Mrs. Edith Gayer, 24-year-old amateur mountain climber, pitched 200 feet off a big Tujunga Canyon cliff yesterday to her death. Her husband, Cecil, was cut and bruised in a 30-foot drop.

Harrison Will Speak On Alien Registration In Radio Forum

The purpose of the Alien Registration Act and the necessity for all non-citizens to comply with it by registering through their local post offices before December 26 will be discussed by Earl G. Harrison, director of alien registration, on the National Radio Forum tonight at 10:30 o'clock.

His address, to be heard locally over WMAL and broadcast on a Nation-wide N. B. C. network, will be Mr. Harrison's last official radio statement to the comparatively few aliens who have not yet registered. The forum is sponsored weekly by The Star and the National Broadcasting Co.

## Summary of Today's Star

National Guard call scheduled for January faces delay. Page A-14

Washington and Vicinity. President to attend newspaper women's luncheon. Page A-10

Two children seriously hurt in traffic accidents. Page B-1

Farm Bureau report hits "costly bureaucratic control." Page B-1

Editorial and Comment. Letters to The Star. Page A-6

Answers to Questions. This and That. Page A-6

David Lawrence. Col. Frederick Palmer. Page A-7

Frederic William Will. Constantine Brown. Page A-7

Sports. Wholesale changes due for Redskins following debacle. Page C-1

Choice of football as top athlete is tribute to football. Page C-2

College basketball bid spurs as Hoyas make home debut. Page C-3

Miscellaneous. Nature's Children. Page C-5

Christmas Story. Bedtime Story. Page C-5

Letter-Out. Winning Contract. Page C-8

Uncle Ray's Corner. Cross-Word Puzzle. Page C-9

Page C-9